

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for use in a virus-free certificate proxy (107, 801), of retrieving from one or a plurality of virus-free certificate authorities (104, 804) a virus-free certificate (200) certifying that a file is virus-free, said method comprising the steps of:

- receiving (1001) a virus-free certificate request for a file;
- selecting a virus-free certificate authority (104, 804) having authority to generate a virus-free certificate (200) for the file;
- requesting (1003..1007) the virus-free certificate to the selected virus-free certificate authority (104, 804);
- receiving (1003..1007) from the selected virus-free certificate authority the generated virus-free certificate; and
- sending back (1005) in response to the virus-free certificate request the received virus-free certificate.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the virus-free certificate request comprises:

- a list of one or a plurality of anti-virus programs to execute on the file to determine whether the file is virus-free or not.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the virus-free certificate request comprises:

- the file for which the virus-free certificate is requested.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the virus-free certificate request comprises:

- an identification of the file (902)-comprising:

- a file identity (905), or
- an identification of the provider of the file (903), or
- both.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority having authority to generate a virus-free certificate for the file comprises the further steps of:

- determining (1002)-whether the virus-certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate authority or not; and
- ~~if the virus-free certificate request does not comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate authority~~[;] selecting (1018)-a virus-free certificate authority referring to a first table (901), said first table comprising for each identified file (902)-a list of one or a plurality anti-virus programs (914), each list being associated with a virus-free certificate authority (912).

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority having authority to generate a virus-free certificate for the file comprises the further steps of:

- determining (1002)-whether the virus-certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate authority or not; and
- ~~if the virus-free certificate request does not comprise an identification of a virus-free certificate authority~~[;] determining (1013)-whether the virus-certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate relay or not; and
- ~~if the virus-certificate request does not comprise an identification of a virus-free certificate relay~~[;] selecting (1018) a virus-free certificate authority

referring to a first table (901), said first table comprising for each identified file a list of one or a plurality anti-virus programs (914), each list being associated with a virus-free certificate authority (912), or a virus-free certificate relay (913) or both.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority having authority to generate a virus-free certificate for the file comprises the further steps of:

- determining (1002) whether the virus-certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate authority or not; and
- ~~if~~ the virus-free certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate authority; ₁ selecting the virus-free certificate authority identified in the virus-free certificate request.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority having authority to generate a virus-free certificate for the file comprises the further steps of:

- determining (1002) whether the virus-certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate authority or not; ₁
- ~~if~~ the virus-free certificate request does not comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate authority; ₁ determining (1013) whether the virus-certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate relay or not; and
- ~~if~~ the virus-certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate relay; ₁ selecting (1014) a virus-free certificate authority referring to the virus-free certificate relay.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1-5 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority referring to a first table (901) comprises the steps of:

- determining (1017) whether the file is identified or not in the first table (901);
- if the file is identified in the first table (901);₁ selecting a list of one or a plurality of anti-virus programs according to the a list of one or plurality of anti-virus programs comprised that is included in the virus-free certificate request;
- determining (1018) whether a virus-free certificate authority is associated with the selected list or not; and
- if a virus-free certificate authority is associated with the selected list;₁ selecting the virus-free certificate authority associated with the selected list;₁

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1-5 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority referring to a first table comprises the steps of:

- determining (1017) whether the file is identified or not in the first table (901);
- if the file is identified in the first table (901);₁ selecting a list of one or a plurality of anti-virus programs according to the a list of one or plurality of anti-virus programs comprised that is included in the virus-free certificate request;
- determining (1018) whether a virus-free certificate authority is associated with the selected list or not;
- if a virus-free certificate authority is not associated with the selected list;₁ determining (1019) whether a virus-free certificate relay is associated with the selected list or not; and
- if a virus-free certificate relay is associated with the selected list;₁ selecting (1014) a virus-free certificate authority referring to the virus-free certificate relay;₁

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4-5 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority referring to a first table comprises the steps of:

- determining whether the file is identified or not in the first table (901); and
- if the file is not identified in the first table (901); selecting (1016) a default virus-free certificate authority (803) in the first table (901).

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4-10 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority referring to a virus-free certificate relay (805) comprises the step of:

- selecting (1014) a virus-free certificate authority referring to a second table in said virus-free certificate relay, said second table comprising for each identified file a list of one or a plurality of anti-virus programs, each list being associated with a virus-free certificate authority.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the generated virus-free certificate comprises:

- a file signature (207) for certifying that the file is declared virus-free by the selected virus-free certificate authority (104, 804).

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the virus-free certificate (200) further comprises:

- a file identification (201);
- a virus-free certificate authority identification (202);
- a public key (203) for decrypting the file signature;
- a certificate signature (206) for authenticating the virus-free certificate; and
- aan indication of the virus-free certificate validity (204).

15. (Currently amended) A system implementing a virus-free certificate proxy, said system comprising a processor that executes a program for implementing a method having the steps of:

- receiving virus-free certificate request for a file;
- selecting a virus-free certificate authority having authority to generate a virus-free certificate (200) for the file;
- requesting (1003..1007) the virus-free certificate to the selected virus-free certificate authority (104, 804);
- receiving (1003..1007) from the selected virus-free certificate authority the generated virus-free certificate; and
- sending back (1005) in response to the virus-free certificate request the received virus-free certificate.

16. (Currently amended) A computer program recorded on a computer-readable medium and comprising instructions for executing a method having the steps of:

- receiving (1001) virus-free certificate request for a file;
- selecting a virus-free certificate authority (104, 804) having authority to generate a virus-free certificate (200) for the file;
- requesting (1003..1007) the virus-free certificate to the selected virus-free certificate authority (104, 804);
- receiving (1003..1007) from the selected virus-free certificate authority the generated virus-free certificate; and
- sending back (1005) in response to the virus-free certificate request the received virus-free certificate.